

In the Claims

Claims 4 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-2, 8, 10-11 and 15 have been amended and Claims 18-20 have been added as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A multiwell plate, comprising:
a frame including a plurality of wells formed therein, each well including:
a first well having a relatively large volume; ~~and~~
a second well having a relatively small volume positioned such that the second well is
suspended above at least some portion of the first well; and
said second well has a hole therethrough at a lower most point whereby said hole is sized such
that liquid is prevented from passing through due to surface tension.
 2. (Currently Amended) The multiwell plate of Claim 1, wherein each well further comprising
an access port that allows fluid communication between the first well and an external environment.
 3. (Original) The multiwell plate of Claim 1, wherein said second well has a concave shape.
- Claim 4 (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The multiwell plate of Claim 1, wherein said frame has a footprint capable of being
handled by a robotic handling system.
 6. (Original) The multiwell plate of Claim 1, wherein each well is positioned on said frame so as to
enable a liquid handling system to automatically deposit a sample solution into said second well and to
automatically deposit a reagent solution into said first well.
 7. (Original) The multiwell plate of Claim 1, further comprising a seal that is positioned over said
plurality of wells.
 8. (Currently Amended) The multiwell plate of Claim 1, wherein said ~~multiwell plate is~~ frame
and said plurality of wells are manufactured from cyclo-olefin.

9. (Original) The multiwell plate of Claim 1, wherein said frame and said plurality of wells form a multi well high-throughput protein crystallography plate.

10. (Currently Amended) A protein crystallography plate, comprising:
a frame including a plurality of wells formed therein, each well including:

a first well ~~including a relatively large reservoir~~ capable of receiving a reagent solution;

a second well ~~including a relatively small reservoir~~ having a substantially concaved form capable of receiving a protein solution and a reagent solution[[,]];

said second well located over at least a portion of said first well;

said second well has a hole therethrough at a lower most point whereby said hole is sized such that the protein solution and the reagent solution are prevented from passing through due to surface tension;

wherein ~~said~~ the reagent solution in said first well has a higher concentration than the reagent solution within said second well; and[[,]]

wherein the protein solution and the reagent solution within said second well interact with the reagent solution within said first well via a vapor diffusion process which enables the formation of protein crystals within said second well.

11. (Currently Amended) The multiwell plate of Claim 10, wherein each well further comprising an access port that allows fluid communication between the first well and an external environment.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The protein crystallography plate of Claim 10, wherein said frame has a footprint capable of being handled by a robotic handling system.

14. (Original) The protein crystallography plate of Claim 13, wherein said robotic handling system is a Society of Biomolecular Screening compatible robotic handling system.

15. (Currently Amended) The protein crystallography plate of Claim 10, wherein each well is positioned on said frame so as to enable a liquid handling system to automatically deposit the protein solution and the reagent solution ~~a sample solution~~ into said second well and to automatically deposit the ~~the~~ [[a]] reagent solution into said first well.

16. (Original) The protein crystallography plate of Claim 10, further comprising a seal that is positioned over said plurality of wells.

17. (Original) The protein crystallography plate of Claim 10, wherein said frame and said plurality of wells are manufactured from cyclo-olefin.

18. (New) A method for using a microplate to form protein crystals, said method comprising the steps of:

prepping the microplate which includes a frame having a plurality of wells formed therein, each well including:

a first well having a relatively large volume;

a second well having a relatively small volume positioned such that the second well is suspended above at least some portion of the first well; and

said second well has a hole therethrough at a lower most point whereby said hole is sized such that liquid is prevented from passing through due to surface tension, said step of prepping further includes:

depositing into the first well a reagent solution; and

depositing into the second well a protein reagent and a reagent solution; and

sealing an opening of each well to enable the protein solution and the reagent solution within said second well to interact with the reagent solution within said first well via a vapor diffusion process which enables the formation of protein crystals within said second well.

19. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein each well has an access port which is used to deposit the reagent solution into said first well.

20. (New) A multiwell plate, comprising:

a frame including a plurality of wells formed therein, each well including:

a first well having a relatively large volume;

a second well having a relatively small volume positioned such that the second well is located above at least some portion of the first well; and

said second well has a hole therethrough.